

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified Application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 4-7, 21-23, 29-34, 36-39, 45-47, 50 and 51 are pending in the Application. Claims 48 and 49 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein.

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search as the amendments merely amplify issues discussed throughout the prosecution; and (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of claims. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented as they are in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicant is pleased to note the Examiner's indication that claims 4-7, 22, 23, 29-32, 36, 37 and 50 have been allowed and claims 21, 33, 34, 38, 39, 45-47 and 51 would be allowable upon correction of the informalities. Applicant has amended claims 21, 33, 34, 46 and 51 to correct the informalities in these claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21, 33, 34, 38, 39, 45-47 and 51 are in form for allowance.

Specification

Applicant has amended the cross-reference to the parent application (U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/741,000) to include reference to the fact that the application has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,687,059.

Claim Objections

Claims 21, 33, 34, 46 and 51 were objected to because of minor informalities.

Applicant has amended the phrase "a focal length of the concave lens element in the doublet component in the third lens group" in claims 21, 46 and 51 to read "a focal length of

the cemented concave lens component in the third lens group.” In addition, Applicant has amended the phrase “a focal length of a concave lens element of a doublet component in the third lens group” in claims 33 and 34 to read “a focal length of a concave lens component in the third lens group.”

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 21, 33, 34, 46 and 51 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 48 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,509).

Claims 48 and 49 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Therefore, the rejection of claims 48 and 49 under § 102(e) is rendered moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 48 and 49 under § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Applicant has addressed all of the Examiner’s objections and rejections and respectfully submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Karceski', is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

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